

REMARKS

Claims 6-8, 10-12, 15 and 18 currently appear in this application. The Office Action of December 15, 2004, has been carefully studied. These claims define novel and unobvious subject matter under Sections 102 and 103 of 35 U.S.C., and therefore should be allowed. Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration, entry of the present amendment, and formal allowance of the claims.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112

Claims 6-9 and 15-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

This rejection is respectfully traversed. In accordance with the Examiner's helpful suggestion, the claims have been amended to recite a light-absorbent composition.

Art Rejections

Claims 6, 9, 10 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kobayashi et al.'215, Dalzell et al. '182, Kanno et al. GB 2329751, Shinkai et al., Nakamura et al., Endo et al., Taniguchi et al., Miyamoto et al., JP11-138992, JP11-144313, Miura et al. or Maeda et al.

These rejections are respectfully traversed. Claims 6 and 10 have been amended to recite a styryl dye in a light

absorbent composition of claim 6 or an optical recording medium of claim 10 as a styryl dye which:

1. is represented by formula 1,
2. absorbs visible light with a wavelength of around 400 nm when formed in a thin layer, and
3. has an absorption maximum at a wavelength of 400 nm or less.

Support for the amendments can be found in the specification as filed at page 10, first full paragraph, in the paragraph bridging pages 40 and 41, and at pages 46 and 47 in Example 6-1 and Table 1.

In contrast to the presently claimed compositions, it is believed that the styryl dyes disclosed in the cited references have an absorption maximum at wavelength over 400 nm. Furthermore, none of the cited references teaches that the styryl dyes disclosed therein absorb visible light with a wavelength of around 400 nm when formed in a thin layer. Consequently, it is respectfully submitted that the amended claims are not anticipated by any of the cited references.

Claims 6-13 and 15-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 11-138992; Taniguchi et al., JP 10-151854; or Miyamoto et al., JP 11-034489.

This rejection is respectfully traversed. The claims have now been amended to recite compositions containing

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a styryl dye as defined in claims 6 and 10. None of these references, alone or in combination, discloses or suggests the styryl dye as defined in claims 6 and 10 as amended. It is respectfully submitted that one skilled in the art reading the cited references would not be led to the presently claimed compositions.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the claims are now in condition for allowance, and favorable action thereon is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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